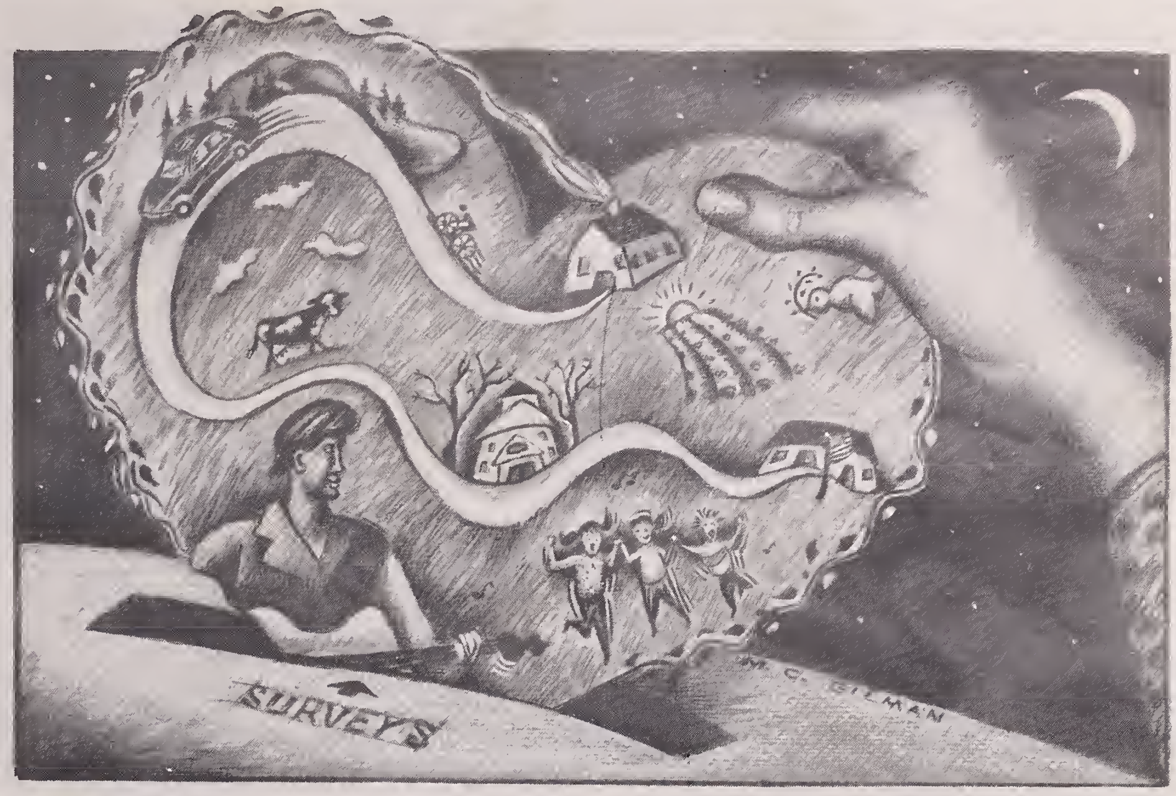
WENDELL POST

Vol XIII No.1

HAPPY 13th Birthday to us ♫

APRIL-MAY 1990



ELECTION ISSUE

50¢

Places of the Heart Survey

First looks at the Places of the Heart Survey returned by over 200 Wendell residents show they feel "a fierce commitment to the rural character" of this town. They also reveal a profound protectiveness of the water, forest and natural environment as a whole, and, furthermore, recognize a rare and special spirit in its citizens.

These were some of the conclusions that leapt out at Walt Cudnohufsky of Conway Design Associates as he scanned the preliminary tabulations and comments of respondents. His firm helped design the survey with a Wendell committee, and is charged with doing a report under the financial aid from a grant from the Mass. Council on the Arts.

It's not all upbeat, though. A current of resentment sweeps through the responses of some citizens about the mark made on the Town's politics, image and building styles by those who arrived when property was cheap and drug use prevalent in the 70's. The Free Box, appreciated functionally for the most part, got criticism for defacing the meeting house. Apollo's house got mixed reviews for the effect of the graphics ("the eye") on the Common. A good many complained about increased codes and restrictions.

There was near unanimous concern about the increased population density. The need to maintain a lid on taxes was a steady theme. A great number recognized the need to save farmland. The Jack Ellis farm in the center was repeatedly mentioned not only for its agricultural importance but for its contribution to the picturesque character of Wendell Center.

The Common won the "Places of the Heart sweepstakes" if you can call it that - hands down. It was mentioned first or prominently in answers throughout the questionnaire. With the post office gone elsewhere, with the old fire station vacated and the preschool program moved to Swift River (and with recent news that the meeting house building may become available for acquisition), people's dedication to their funky, sleepy, historic Common and their vision of it will be put to the test.

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Future of Town Buildings - Undecided -

The Building Facilities Committee has submitted to the Selectboard a report based on information gathered from interviews with town officials, interested citizens, and response from a letter mailed to all town residents. The report suggested specific uses for the former pre-school building and possible future uses for the old fire station and present library buildings. The uses suggested by the Building Facilities Committee were as follows:

1. Former pre-school: a new expanded site for the Wendell Library, combined with space available for general community uses, i.e. senior citizens, youth groups, other community functions.
2. Old fire station: possible town office space, especially if connected to the Town Hall, to make use of toilet facilities and wheelchair ramp.
3. Present library building: a place for town Historical Commission or possible additional office space.

At this point the decision for the use of these buildings rests with the selectboard. Because of the relatively small response from the community at large as to the best possible use, the Selectboard has suggested a referendum question on the

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Wendell Earthday Festivities

Upcoming on Sunday April 22nd will be a community Celegration and Sing with Sarah Pirtle, in honor of Spring and Earthday. Come join friends and neighbors for a picnic lunch on the town common beginning at noon. Bring your own favorite picnic foods. Judith Boice will lead "New Games" for all ages interested from 12:30 on until just before the concert. And the Wendell Bear has promised to come out of hibernation.

At 1:30 in the Town Hall Sarah Pirtle will join us leading a fun-loving afternoon of music, song and story - including sing-along, music games and an array of instruments from many cultures. Local Greenfield singer and songwriter Sarah has performed locally for many years and as a multi-talented educator worked in a variety of ways with young people of all ages. Her two albums "Two Hands Hold The Earth" (1985, A Gentle Wind) and "The Wind Is Telling Secrets (1988, A Gentle Wind) have gained national recognition, delighting children and adults of all ages.

"From celebrations of silliness like "The Woman Who Gobbled Swiss Cheese" to messages of empowerment like "Touch The Sky" Sarah's songs spread joy and a deep feeling for the whole family of Earth. Many of her songs are skillful teaching tools for young people - about the mysteries of nature, the gifts held out to us by other life forms, and the richness of multi-cultural diversity..."

During the afternoon there will be a few special contributions from Wendell friends. Refreshments will be available during the concert, thanks to many fine bakers along the Star Route who've graciously donated their services.

Sarah Pirtle's concert is generously made possible by an Arts Lottery Grant. It is free and open to all who come.

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the Wendell Post

Vol. XII No. 6 May and June 1990

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A Thousand Pardons to Those Omitted or MisNamed, or Misspelled, or otherwise Offended.

Photography: Joy Gorgoncoski

Special Thanks to Mary Cunningham Gilman for the front page art.

***Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship unknown.

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Correction: Last issue, front page art was by Nancy Cole Brill, Photography by Joy Gorgoncoski

Announcing:
A new group practice in internal medicine
Lourdes B. Flaminiano, M.D.
Felicidad G. Melquiades, M.D.
Birendra Sinha, M.D.
Patients may call for an appointment weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Note: Dr. Flaminiano and Dr. Melquiades are believed to be the first female primary care physicians for adults to practice medicine in the Athol-Orange area.)

Athol Memorial Hospital
Medical Arts Building
80 Mechanic St.
Athol, Mass. 01331
Phone 249-7818

Athol Memorial Hospital

Lydia M. Ellis

Lydia M. Ellis, widow of the late Glenn Ellis, died Feb. 23, 1990 at Buckley Nursing Home.

Mrs. Ellis was a very prominent person in Wendell, very well known and respected. Because she has been ill for some time, many of the newer generation have lost the opportunity to know her. The "Post" requests community help to learn more about Mrs. Ellis. We wish to write a future story about her in order to hold her memory fresh in this time.

To the Wendell Community

I'd like to thank my family, friends and neighbors for the help, gifts, cards, flowers and the love and caring you have given me during the past six months. Cancer is a disease requiring treatment that is thoroughly challenging. Having had the support and assistance from so many of you has helped very much in my recuperation. I look forward, now, to spring and to resuming my normally active lifestyle.

Sincerely,
Anne Zak

Goods Go-Around

So what's a Goods Go-Around? Right now it's an idea, but maybe it'll be a Community Happening. It's a Wendell mutation of tag sales--no tags, no sales-- a take-off from the Free Box and the Plant Swap.

During the years I lived in Northampton, improvising there till I could get back to the country, I had a good time many a Saturday charting a route to check out tag sales that seemed likely from their ads in the Gazette. I'd go on my bike if the circuit was in town or by car if it was through an outlying area. And when, every few years I had a bunch of stuff I wanted to put back in circulation, I'd have a tag sale--by myself or with a friend. And, of course, much of the fun of tag sales is the people contact; conversation about goods that pass through our households becoming touchstones with both strangers and friends. Or just hanging out together for a while, especially on a spring-like day.

Now I've been in Wendell a few years and, unpacking things stored away while building my home, find that again I have stuff that I'd like to put back into circulation. From hands-on connection with the Free Box and having heard about the Plant Swaps the past two springs, my impulse skipped over from tagging and money exchange to a free flow of things. This way I don't have to puzzle over how much to tag things for, have change on hand, or keep an eye on my possessions. I can put my stuff out--as I would for a tag sale--and then leave it as I can leisurely go around and look at what others have brought. Visit. Enjoy a spring afternoon on the Common. And maybe when it's time to pack up, there will be less of what I brought and a few "new" things to take away.

DOR (Dorothy Thompson)

ANNUAL BUDGET

The Wendell Finance Committee will publish its annual report along with the budget by the last week in April

Copies will be available at the Country Store, Depot Store, and Town Hall. Contact Stephen 544-3223 for more information.

AKIDO CLUB OF WENDELL

Yes! We are still practicing at the Swift River School, Tues at 6-7:30. The class is open. Call Ria 544-2226.

PLASTIC RECYCLING

Shop & Save supermarket in Orange has agreed to take our towns' collection of plastic shopping bags. These bags include plastic bags from the counter as well as produce and bread bags. They will take bags from any retail store. These bags <u>must</u> be dry and clean. Look for a container labelled "<u>Plastic</u> bags"' at the R.A.T.S.

The plastic bags that are returned to Shop & Save will be sorted, cleaned and ground. Then, under very high temperature and pressure, they are made into polyethylene bags.

In the near future, Wendell will be able to recycle other types of plastic including HDPE, the plastic found in milk jugs, detergent containers, anti-freeze jugs, etc, as a company in Northampton is now accepting mixcolors of HDPE.

By recycling our plastic bags, jugs and containers we can help reduce the amount of trash entering our landfills and the amount of energy and raw materials needed to constantly produce new plastic.

Joyce Greenberg
Recycling Committee

NOTICE

Spring Cleaning Special
No Fee
charged at the R.A.T.S.
for residencial use
of the open-top container
Now until the end
of May.

ANNOUNCING

3rd Annual Plant Swap
May 20th
Bring Annuals, Perennials, etc.
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Wendell Common
rainplace -- Meetinghouse

Missionary Killed in Lebanon

"You say you don't want anything to happen to me. I'd prefer it that way myself - but I don't see that we have control over the forces of madness, and if you choose to enter into other peoples' suffering, or love others, you at least have to consent in some way to the possible conquences."
(Ita Ford, Maryknoll sister murdered in El Salvador)

Many people in our community know about the March 28th murder of Rev. William E. Robinson, brother to Wendell's Rosalie Rosser of Lockes Hill Rd. No one knows exactly who killed William or why, though two different groups in Lebanon have claimed resposibility.

William his wife Barbara and their four children have lived in Lebanon for the past 7 years providing a home for "castaway" children who are handicapped, eldery people, organizing food and clothing distributions and offering temporary shelter to those needing it. I asked Rosalie to share with me some information about the family's work and why theychose Lebanon.

Two years before going to Lebanon Rev. Robinson had been a "successful" business executive for cable T.V. Rosalie explained that it was during a stay in the hospital for back injuries and kidney problems that William decided to change the course of his life. She believes that his physical problems forced him to slow down giving him time to think. No one but William could know exactly what his conclusions were but the result of his introspection was that he and his wife became Protestant ministers. John Dunne stated, "Faith is the staking of one's life on an insight." William believed that God wished that they go to Lebanon to help care for it's children and within a short time he and his family moved there to begin their work.

William's death will not bring about the end of the Robinson's efforts in Lebanon. Rosalie impressed upon me that Barbara has always been as committed and worked as hard as William in their ministry. Barbara and her four teenagers plan to stay in Lebanon and to continue providing shelter for it's children and elderly.

Those responsible for William's murder stole $4,000 that the family planned to use for building materials to construct a larger facility in which the children and older folks would stay together The building would give more space and thus enable the family to shelter more people.

The Norwegian government, through their U.N. peacekeeping force had been providing food for the 45 people presently staying with the Robinsons. According to Rosalie people "have been very generous", enabling to send $800 to her sister-in-law Barbara to help continue the family's work.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation towards the Robinson's efforts in Lebanon may send a check made out to:

The Christian Children's Home
to Rosalie Rosser
P.O. Box 75
Wendell Ma. 01379

Eileen Sauvageau

THE DIEMAND CUTTER
~ HAIR-CUT SHOP ~
MENS - $8.00 WOMENS $10.00
— PERMS FROM $30.00 —
Call 544-3045 for Apt.
Open Sundays and EVE'S

Library Notes

Statistic lovers here you go. Between January 1st and March 31st of this year area residents made 562 trips to the Wendell Free Library. That means an average of 46.8 people, young and old, visit the library per week, or 3 people per library hour.

During that three month time period over one thousand books were checked out; 502 juvenile fiction, 105 juvenile non-fiction, 230 adult non-fiction and 191 adult fiction books. In addition 204 videos and 175 miscellaneous library materials, such as magazines, books on tape, and toys also circulated.

All this is a way of telling you the library is a well used well appreciated part of our town and it is clear that the use is still on the increase.

For those of you who might be interested in volunteering at the library, there are at least 250 books (mostly donated, adult fiction and non-fiction) waiting to be cataloged and put on the shelves. I'd like to have a "cataloging party" (no experience necessary) to process these books some evening soon. Or if you'd like to volunteer in some other capacity here at the library please let me know - there's always plenty to do.

Rosie Heidkamp

Friend of the Library: Bob Ellis

The Friends of the Wendell Free Library have found a friend of their own in Bob Ellis, local artist and naturalist. The group needed a source of income to supplement its "meager budget", said Ellis, so he approached the Friends with the idea of painting a picture and raffling it off.

"I'm not a hero," Ellis said, "I just wanted to help the Town. It's a matter of life's been good to you, so pass it on. Perhaps others will do likewise. There's a lot of talent in this town."

The raffle of Ellis's watercolor will be held during Wendell Old Home Day, July 14. The price is $2 each, 3 for $5, available for purchase May 1st.

"We want as many tickets sold as possible to make sure the Library gets a big chunk of the money out of this, " Ellis said.

Ellis's painting sensitively depicts a brave returning to camp with a small doe over his shoulder, a large pine, a pond and its natural spillway into a stream - all of it obviously coveted as "home territory" by a family of beavers. It's a treasure for any household, but a Wendell household is where it belongs.

The painting is intended for inclusion in a book on Wendell history. "The writing of the book is a town project," Ellis said. "A number of individuals are working on it." The Wendell Arts Lottery Council partially supported the painting of the picture, titled "The Way Back."

Ed Brindle

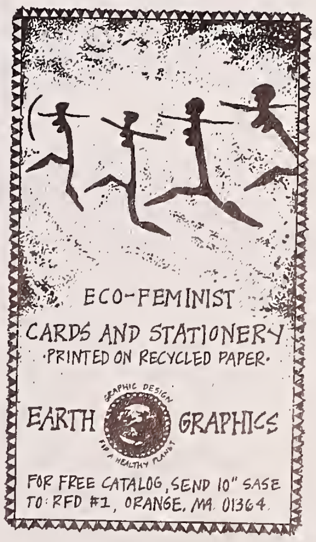
Community as Teaching Resource

Swift River School is the recent recipient of a grant from New Salem Academy to develop interdisciplinary curriculum materials that use the community as a teaching and learning resource. Greenfield resident, Dora H. Clarkson, an education consultant, will serve as Coordinator for the project.

Students will learn about the history and culture of the towns of New Salem and Wendell and about the lost villages and towns of the Swift River Valley: Dana, Prescott, Enfield, Greenwich, North Dana, Millington, Cooleyville, Packardville, Bobbinville, Nichewaug, and Smith's Village. Students in all grade levels will participate in activities that compare present day communities, families, work and schools with the experiences of past generations, in the Swift River Valley. The school is interested in locating primary and secondary source materials for the period from 1860-1940. Old letters, journals, post cards, documents photographs, newspapers, artifacts and objects will be used to enrich curriculum units and activities. The following source materials, for example, would be valuable to a study of school life in the past: photos of district schools and students, school artifacts (school bell, period textbooks, report cards and other documents), diaries or letters that refer to school life. Community members and former residents of the lost Quabbin towns are perhaps the most important resource. Seniors who are willing to recall their school days in an informal presentation to students or as part of an oral history, interview, should contact the school. Similar resources are also needed to expand the curriculum units on families, communities and work.

Students will also examine the existing Quabbin District as a resource for learning about water, wildlife and wilderness. A resource guide that lists both human and material resources is being developed by the Coordinator. Ideas for school programs speakers, field trips and teaching materials are being researched. Please contact Swift River School if you know of people, places, organizations, materials and even objects that might enhance the Quabbin Curriculum Project. The school's phone is (508-544-6926).

PAC TRUCKING
MORSE VILLAGE ROAD
WENDELL, MASS. 01379
508-544-7722
PAT
DON
EARTH MATERIALS
Demolition & Removal



Slate of Officers – Election –

May 7, 1990 Polls open 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.

1	Selectperson	3yr. NI	Mike Anderson Anne Zak Ken Simos
1	Assessor	3yr. NI	Cyril MacKenzie Susan Dunlany
1	Town Clerk	3yr.	Anna Hartjens Dorothy Thompson
1	Treasurer	3yr.	Judith Wilder
1	Tax Collector	3yr.	Judith Wilder
1	Board of Health	3yr.	Sharon Gensler
1	Planning Board	5yr.	Joe Diemand Georgina Kish
1	Moderator	1yr.	Kathy Becker
1	Cemetary Commission	3yr.	
1	Road Comm	3yr.	Ray Avery
1	Road Comm.	2yr.	Harry Williston
1	School Committee	2yr. NI	Patty Clark
1	School Comm.	3yr.	Angela Russek (Angel)
1	Tree Warden	1yr.	Danny Bacigalupo
2	Library Trustee	3yr.	Marion Herrick Sylvia Wetherby

NI - no incumbent

★ contested seat

Selectboard – Mike Anderson ★

My name is Michael T. Anderson. I have lived on Kentfield Road in Wendell for the last four years. My wife's name is Judy, we have three children, Michael,age 13, is still at home. I own and operate Anderson Heating.

I am a candidate for Selectman because I would like to represent the small businesses in town. I also think the time has come for a town's government to really look deep into their hearts to find out what the small towns need and can afford money wise. We have to take our priorities from there, in order for the small towns to survive.

The future and the economy the way it is, we really have to dig in and unite our efforts, otherwise we will lose our small town identity.

I would appreciate your support and your vote on the May 7 election.

Michael T. Anderson

Selectboard – Anne Zak ★

Running for the Selectboard is something I've wanted to do for many years. I feel that I have the time, energy and experience necessary for the position.

I've been a full-time resident of Wendell for 16 years, served five years on the Finance Committee (including the Charter Commission), had served the community as proprietor of the Wendell Country Store for nine years, served ten years as the President of Bear Mt. Preservation Association (a local environmental group that opposed the relocation of Rt. 2 into Wendell State Forest and aided in the acquisition of the Wolff property by Mass. Fish and Wildlife) and have been active on the Old Home Day Committee, Firehouse Study Committee, Full Moon Coffeehouse and Free Box Committees.

I think taxpayers' concern about property tax increases is one of the most important issues facing us. As a Selectboard member I will work to pursue revenues from Federal and State sources, promote a more expansive tax base including new business and non-polluting industry and encourage "sensible spending".

I can't help but add a historical note here, thirteen years ago I ran for the Selectboard and lost by One Vote. I encourage all voters, no matter who they may support, to make time on Monday, May 7th to go to the polls and cast your very important one vote.

Selectboard – Ken Simos ★

No statement available at this time.

Assessor – "Mack" MacKenzie ★

An assessor is not the way to win friends and influence people. But it is necessary to make sure that all people pay their fair share of the cost of running the town.

I think assessors are not villans who come to steal your money but somebody who is trying to equalize the cost of government, subject to the laws of the country. As a town, we are responsible for education, safety, and the well being of all of the citizens. Being an assessor is a thankless job but it is necessary for the above reasons.

I will try to use my time, if elected, to make the burden of taxes as equal as possible.

Now about myself, I am retired and moved to Wendell about 6 years ago. I have owned property for 26 years. I have graduated high school in Watertown. While there, I organized the P.T.A. and served as president until I moved to Natick. I have 6 children, all grown and married. I have been married for over 40 years. I have owned several homes, one at a time of course. I am am assistant librarian and would like to become more involved in the town.

Thank you, "Mack" Mackenzie

Assessor – Susan Dunlany ★

I have decided to run for the Board of Assessors for two reasons: Because I have wanted to help the town with it's load of paperwork, and the Board seems especially in need of help; and because it has come to my attention that there is a lack of particular statistical information (regarding past real estate sales inthe various parts of Wendell) which has resulted in inequalities in our town's assessing system. I have the time to put into these needs.

I have lived in Wendell for ten years and did volunteer work in the Assessors Officewith Jesse Wetherby for several weeks some years ago.

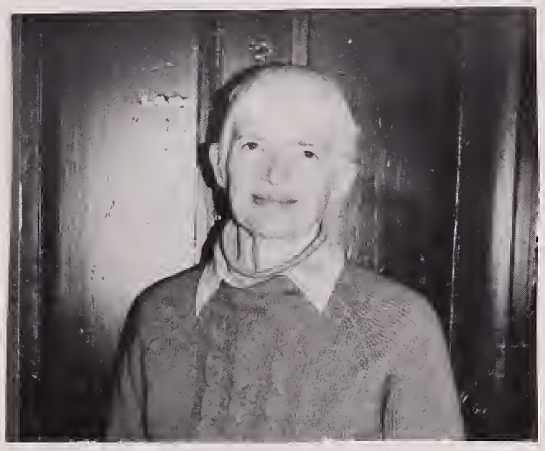
Dr. Ludwick R. Benedetti
OPTOMETRIST
General Family Practice
Eye Care - Eye Examinations
Eye Glasses
All contact lens types,
gas permeable and soft
No-line Bifocals
Athol, Mass. 249-8931

Franklin Community Co-op
ORGANIC AND NATURAL FOODS AVAILABLE
32 Chapman St.
Greenfield
774-2513
Hours 9:30-6:00 Mon-Sat
EXPANDED HOURS - Thursday evening till 8pm

Town Clerk ★ Anna Hartjens

My name is Anna Hartjens. I am a candidate for Town Clerk. I have been Town Clerk since 1973 and I have enjoyed doing the job. The Town has gone through many changes in those years and it has been very interesting. We probably will go through many more changes. I am married to Joe and we have one daughter, Kristina age 14. I work at the Wendell Depot Post office and Store. I would appreciate your support at the May 7 election.

Anna Hartjens



Town Clerk - ★ Dorothy Thompson

When I was in my forties, back in school to get a graduate degree, I developed research skills and found that I enjoyed them: collecting data, carefully recording it, and following through on details. I still enjoy those skills and became one of the new substitute librarians at the Wendell Free Library as a way to use them.

I am 61 and came to Wendell a few years ago to build my retirement home. While this has been significantly a "coming home" to rural roots for me, I know that there is not just one good way to live---even here. Hanging in there through the Wendell town meetings that have been held during the past year and a half, I gained profound respect for the work I see being done by so many people to have differing approaches heard and resolutions found. Being town clerk is a way I would like to use my skills to contribute to this process.

Dorothy Thompson

Life Readings
COUNSELING, PAST LIVES, GENERAL HEALTH
AURA & CHAKRA CLEANSING
MEDITATION & INNER DEVELOPMENT
Daria Nielson
R.F.D. Mormon Hollow Rd.
Millers Falls, Mass.
Available For Classes
& Workshops
1-508-544-7702

Board of Health - Sharon Gensler

I have served on the Board of Health since 1986 and am seeking your support for re-election. I have time, energy, and enthusiasm for the position. I plan to continue working with the solid waste issue, mainly trying to improve Wendell's recycling efforts (through improving the WRATS, increasing resident awareness and participation, working with the Recycling Committee and the Wendell-Orange joint oversight committee which oversees our grant.)

I am also interested in protection of the town's ground water. As recent studies indicate within Massachusetts the drinking water of one our of five towns is contaminated. I want to work to keep Wendell's water pure through working on well/aquifer protection, and in working with the state to allow alternative disposal and greywater systems.

I also hope to continue working closely with other Wendell town boards and residents to increase communication and effectiveness.

I would appreciate your support and your vote.

Planning Board - ★ Joseph Diemand

There seems to be so many new faces at town meeting. Most of you are aware this town is in serious financial difficulty. Having been born and educated here, the amount of changes are remarkable. Of the many kids I attended wchool with, less than a dozen still reside in Wendell. Through the seventies Carol and I drove the school bus and I can honestly say half the population seems new. For you recent arrivals to Wendell, let me reflect on some of these changes. I started first grade at the Center School back in 1949. Maude Merchant drove a nine passenger woody wagon and Ray Clarke, a fifty-nine passenger school bus. Although the drivers changed, those were the only two vehicles doing school transportation through the early seventies. They started paving Mormon Hollow Road on the town line in fifty and twenty years later they finally finished that four miles of tar road. The selectboard had all the responsibilities such as the finance committee, board of health, planning board, about every other board. In fact, not too awful long ago the town clerk, treasurer and the tax collector held their offices in their respective homes. Also remember the post office being at Don Lewis'? and between the Center School and the Library there was a monstrous rooming house that served as a general store. The Harrington House was a retirement home and how many of you old timers remember the police chief, Glen Ellis, trying to catch Brad Lewis and Art Fiske in their thirty-nine Ford coupe?

About me...I'm the oldest of the Diemands. Extremely outspoken and a contributing tax payer, attended the Center School and New Salem Academy. In fifty-nine put a hitch in the Navy and in sixty-four was granted my first Class III license (junk license). Carol and I had the school bus contract from seventy-one through seventy-nine, served on the volunteer fire department, was a member of the first board of health, served nine years as a school committee member, have been and am very involved in my industry's state and national associations and am presently on the finance committee.

Mormon Hollow Auto started out as a hobby and over the past twenty-six years we have become one of the industry's leaders here in Franklin County. As times change so do our methods of operation. Twenty years ago the more cars you had, the bigger the profit margin. Today we're learning to work smarter. We are computerized, we pre-dismantle and warehouse our late model parts. The past couple of years our inventory is approximately forty per cent. Carol and I also employ six full time people. Our overhead would make a good dent in the town deficit. In fact an average family could live off of our phone bill. I am fortunate that over the past ten years Carol and I have been to over three hundred yards bringing back a professional manner to the operation. Next month we will have a Fre-On extractor. This machine removes Fre-On from an automobile into storage tanks where it is periodically collected and then transported to a large recycling facility. So you see, fellow citizens of Wendell, this re-cycling effort that has become so popular in the last few years has been my livelihood for the past two decades.

How many of you sat through those tedious By-Law meetings? Repeatedly I voiced my objections to the restrictive limitations on commercial development. I do believe laws are needed to protect us from ourselves but an unfortunate fact of life is unless this town gets some sort of financial relief the taxpayers will bear even more of a burden than a catastrophic tax rate we are presently experiencing. A contributing factor is the school system which is the majority of our budget. Although it is our responsibility to educate, we also owe a responsibility to the elderly and those not fortunate enough to continue paying an escalating property tax. I don't have all the answers but one of my priorities is to make sure that this town is financially solvent and, without commercial growth, there will be more people moving out instead of in. Point of information: my tax bill on a farm house and a stone barn on two and a half acres in 1972 was $160.00. A new house in town today is over $2,000.00. As a group we CAN help Wendell survive.

Therefore, I am running for a seat on the planning board and would sincerely appreciate your support.

Joseph A. Diemand

cont' p. 13

COMMONWEALTH ACUPUNCTURE
NANCY GROSSMAN, Reg. Ac.
Acupuncture, Acupressure
150 Fearing Street #23, Amherst, MA 01002
413/549-5855

Diemand's 544-3806
Egg Farm
local fresh eggs
a family run business since 1936
Wendell, Ma.

A View on the School Committee

In response to the growing frustration I feel at the fact that the school committee seems to operate in isolation during most of the year, the notable exception being at budget time, I am undertaking this writing of a regular column on the work we do, and our feelings about what we do as a committee.

I should be clear that because of the person I am and the need I feel for dialog on these issues, I make only limited attempts at objectivity here. These are my views, unless another committee member should occasionally feel moved to write the column in my stead. You should understand that I, as your school committee representative for two years now, believe strongly that educating our children is one important way we express our humanity. I believe generally in smallness over bigness (small classes, small schools). I look for ways to deinstitutionalize education, and thus support local effort, hiring local staff, home education and volunteerism. I feel that education is the most important thing we do with our tax money, and so I support funding education over funding the military. I personally do not pay federal war taxes, but I happily pay local taxes. With these views in mind, let me review for you our work over the past several months.

By far the most time consuming item on our agenda has been the budget. The process we use is to start with what we would like to have, and then to think about the realities of our financial situation and try to make cuts in ways that will have the least impact on quality of education. Some cuts were relatively easy (but only relatively) like voting to make no major textbook purchases next year. We can do that next year, but obviously we can't do that for several years running, or we'd be in trouble. It's easy to see upon even a casual glance at the budget that this type of cut doesn't amount to much overall, because a hugh percentage of the budget is comprised of salaries. Here begins the trouble, as we feel the real human cost of considering denying raises to our staff (which is actually a pay cut), cutting staff positions, cutting programs, eliminating programs, all of which directly impact our children by removing mentors from their lives. Children learn by being in relationship with adults. More adults, closer relationships, smaller classes. These are the ways we know to improve quality of life and education for our young. Cut adult contact, and we cut quality, and children will start slipping through the cracks. No way around it.

So the budget process is a painful one. We feel the pain of parents who cannot provide for their childrens needs, and we wonder where a society like this is going. The process, at this writing, is not yet over. The "easy" cuts have been made. Salary negotiations are underway. Some really painful cuts have happened. And we're not through yet.

Other items of business have also been discussed, though the budget has been primary these past few months.

We had a lengthy discussion with Board of Health members from New Salem and Wendell about trash removal and recycling. This was important because of our town's commitment to mandatory recyling and because of a proposed increase in the budgetary line for trash removal. Some suggestions were made, including direct pickup at the school of some recyclables, and elimination of ½ pint milk cartons (which are the source of about half of the schools trash). This discussion will continue.

Another item that raised considerable interest in town was a plan to cut down the pine tree in front of the school and install a flagpole in its place. Feelings expressed about this agenda item were concerns about the cost of such a move, the message of nationalism and militarism this would give our children, the patriotism that we need to instill in our children and the legal mandate in Massachusetts that the flag be displayed outside the school. Suggestions were made that the flagpole be installed but that a flag other than the U.S. flag be flown, that a "peace garden" be designed to provide the ceremonial focus that a flag would have provided, that a small flag be mounted on the side of the building. Some people felt that pine trees are inherently weak and dangerous and should be removed regardless of considerations of the value of a flagpole. The committee has officially voted to authorize the superintendent and principal to cut down the tree and install a flagpole, but the discussion continues.

School committee members have recently received a letter from a group calling itself the Petersham K-12 Study Committee. This group is trying to assess the interest in Petersham and its abutting neighbors in providing local K-12 systems for our children. I find this to be an exciting idea. Several years ago an informal committee began meeting in Wendell with the similar agenda of looking at local alternatives for the education of our 7th and 8th graders. Both fortunately and unfortunately, I think that group turned its attention to the study committee that ultimately recommended the adoption of a middle school philosophy at Mahar. This was clearly a move in a positive direction for Mahar, but our concerns for providing for the education of our 7 - 12 graders locally, in a system that allows us more equitable representation, were lost. I am excited to see the reemergence of these ideas, and intend to put some energy into promoting discussion of making Swift River, in cooperation with neighboring towns, a K - 12 system. Anyone interested, please call me (4-7243) and/or John LePoer (724-3231) in Petersham and we'll start talking.

As of May, there will be two openings on the Wendell committee caused by the resignations of Christine Heard and Linda Keogh. Wendell school committee members serve also on the Swift River, Mahar, and Union 28 committees. It is important that we have all positions filled, so that Wendell is represented on all committees. Of particular importance is the Mahar committee. Wendell has only one representative to Mahar and we need to continue our strong and active voice there. There are no special qualifications for a school committee member. Any caring person can learn what needs to be learned to be effective. A candidate should be committed to the Wendell community and be willing to attend meetings and see the process through. A person interested in being a write-in candidate could call a school committee member for information and support.

I close this brief review with a plea for involvement. The school committee does more than spend money. We work out ways to make the structure of organized education more closely reflect our values. We are an instrument of the enculturization of our young. Our school system, for better or worse, has taken over the cultural functions that are in other societies accomplished by ritual and rites of passage. A group of five interested people working alone may not be adequate to this task. Our meetings are open to anyone; anyone can participate. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the Swift River Library. Please come, or please call and discuss issues with us. This must be a community effort, all year round.

by Zenya Wild

Council On Aging

If you have succeeded in blowing out those 60 candles on the birthday cake, you have won the honor of becoming a Senior Citizen and the Wendell Council on Aging has your interest at heart, especially health wise. Now if you are not among the more fortunate over 60 generation don't worry, we think of you, too. Each month we sponsor a Blood Pressure Screening at the Town Hall, also Cholesterol and Diabetic Screenings at least once a year. All of these health screenings are open to all the citizens of Wendell and with no age limit. Last summer we held a free Blood Pressure Screening at the annual Old Home Day celebration with the help of local nurses who volunteered their services. There were some 60 local people who took advantage of our offer. This was a most successful event which we wish to sponsor again this year. If you think you have a problem please stop by and see us at any of the screenings mentioned above and have a talk with the nurse present. Just phone any member of the Council on Aging.

In case you haven't heard, the seniors in town have their eyes on the front room at the old school for a Senior Center. This would give us much needed privacy for our many projects and a place where we could keep more valuable items under lock and key. This year all state money for the elderly has been cut at least 10% but the state has always placed a priority on the establishment of new Senior Centers so we are very confident that in ths next fiscal year we can get a grant to help us furnish and equip our new center. The Orange Senior Center was furnished in this manner and now it has developed into one of the finest community centers in the area. We feel that we can do the same for Wendell and we ask for the support of our younger friends in this project.

CONCIL ON AGING

Raymond Avery	544-3338
Elsie Diemand	544-2762
Lucille Lewis	544-6317

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Annual Town Meeting

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ** DRAFT APRIL 5, 1990
DRAFT **** DRAFT **** DRAFT **** DRAFT **** DRAFT

Article 2: To hear the report of Town Officials, or take any action thereon.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 1989 in accordance with the provisions of MGL, Ch. 44;4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with MGL, Ch. 44;17, or take any action thereon.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected and appointed officials of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1990, as provided in MGL Ch. 41, as amended, and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $$$$$$ from taxation or such other sum of money deemed necessary to defray such salaries and expenses for that period, or take any action thereon.

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during fiscal 1991, as permitted by MGL Ch. 44;53F, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate $$$$$ from Free Cash to reduce the FY91 budget of the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station, or take any action thereon.
SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of $24,529 to pay the FY91 debt service on the Fire Station/Highway Garage note, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of $138,638 to pay the FY91 debt service on the Swift River School Construction note, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of $$$$$$ to pay the FY91 debt service on the Swift River School Addition note, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of $12,979 to pay the FY91 debt service on the Fire Cab and Chasis note, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum o of $3,000 to fully fund the Town's contributory retirement account, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $1,400 for the purpose of conducting a Hazardous Waste Collection Day in cooperation with the county, or take any action thereon.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate the sum of $14,662 as the Town's share of the Shared Administrative Assistant Program, to accept any other funds as may be available to support said program during fiscal year 1991, and to authorize the Selectboard to enter into a co-operative agreement as prescribed by MGL Ch. 40;4A for the program's administration and management, or take any action thereon.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $18,000 to pay for a full time General Municipal Assistant for the Town, or take any action thereon.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $5,000 to the Reserve Account, or take any action thereon.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $1,097.00 to pay its allocated share of the initial budget of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, or take any action thereon.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Franklin County Technical School District to accept an Equal Education Opportunity Grant (E.E.O.G.) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of $12,281.00 in additional educational aid for fiscal 1990, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to pass the following resolution:

It is the will of the people of Wendell, Massachusetts that the President of the United State and the Congress through our congressional representatives be notified by our Town Clerk that we feel compelled by conscience, civic responsibility and common sense to PROTEST the draining the draining of our scarce financial resources for military purposes. This year, while Wendell struggles to balances its Town budget, approximately $488,000 from Wendell residents will be spent on the Pentagon's $300 billion budget.

We affirm that security depends not on missiles, bombers, and overseas military bases, but on the availability of such basic and fundamental necessities as first rate education for our children, affordable housing, low-cost medical care, and a clean environment.

Therefore, we ask the congress to rearrange the priorities of the President's budget in favor of the aforementioned life-affirming budgetary items.

A copy of this resolution will be sent to each member of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, or take any action thereon.
SPONSORED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to hear and discuss the report of the Building Facilities Committee, or take any action thereon.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to use the old Wendell Center School (former pre-school building) for the Wendell Free Library and Community Center. The Community Center Room would be utilized by our Senior Citizens (Golden Agers), Boy and Girl Scouts, Library Programs, and any other group sponsored by the Wendell Recreation Committee, or take any action thereon.

May 9th at Townhall 8 p.m.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 9, 1990 7pm

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 9, 1990 8pm

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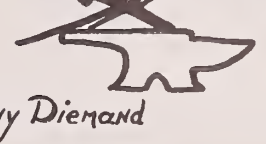
Tony Dienand
544-2851

BY PETITION

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate $$$$ for building improvements at the Wendell Center School, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the town will petition the general court to pass legislation allowing the retention of all deeds excise tax revenues collected in Franklin County under Chapter 193 Acts of 1989 to be used exclusively for the purpose of providing regional municipal and human services within Franklin County, or take any action thereon.

SPONSORED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 40 of Chapter 653 of the Acts of 1989 regarding assessment date changes for new growth or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 24: Pending low-level radioactive waste article

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorized the Town Accountant to establish a reserve for appropriation accout for the Conservation Commission known as the "Wetland Protection Fund" pursuant to Chapter 287 section 54 of the Acts Of 1989, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Moderator to form a Trustee Committee of five persons to make recommendations on the disposition of revenues from the Demolition Debris Dump, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Wendell Zoning ByLaws by deleting the Guest Cabin provisions as described in Article V, Section A, #5 and Section E, #1, Residential Uses, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Wendell Zoning ByLaws by adding to Article V, Section A, #5: "of six or more acres," so that it reads "one quest cabin may be located on any approved building lot of six or more acres." or act thereon.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Wendell Zoning ByLaws by changing the definition of "Guest Cabin" to read: "A structure (not a mobile home) on a single lot, no more than one per lot, which does not have septic or sanitary disposal systems, but which can provide continuous lodging, for no more than 30 days, for up to four (4) people." or act thereon.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Wendell Zoning ByLaws by deleting the definition "Temporary Dwelling or Mobile Home" and replacing it with:

Definition of Mobile Home: A structure transportable in one or more sections, which is at least 8' in width and 32' in length, which is build on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling unit with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities.
and

Definition of Temporary Dwelling: Any structure used as a dwelling during the construction of a permanent dwelling.
or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Wendell Zoning ByLaws Article VI, Section C, by adding "or dwellings" to read "Temporary Mobile Homes or Dwellings" and add the sentence "Upon expiration of the Special Permit, a temporary dwelling must be either removed from the premises or converted to an approved accessory use." or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Wendell Zoning ByLaws Article IV, paragraph 3: "Change, Extension or Alteration" by eliminating the words "Special Permit" and replaced them with the word finding, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL c. 40, section 21 D... (which allows for the non-criminal method of disposition of violations of municipal ordinances, By-laws, rules and regulations -- to be used for UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE BY-LAW???)

ARTICLE 35: To transact any other legal business that may come before said meeting or take any action thereon.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Patriot's Day

A Collage of Emotion

Very early in the morning on the first Patriot"s Day in 1775, seventy-six farmers faced several hundred of the King's regulars. Captain Parker ordered his men to:

"Stand your ground.
Don't fire unless fought upon.
But if they mean to have war,
Let it begin here".

It was a bold, but clearly defensive position!

Someone fired. No one knows who. It has been called "The shot heard 'round the world." That round began a process that destroyed the "divine right" of kings to govern.

Later that morning in Concord "by the rude bridge that arched the flood," Minutemen from miles around held their ground and turned the Red Coats around.

I believe those Patriots invented people's war. They did believe in the right to defend themselves against a government that did not serve them. With guerrilla tatics they began an armed struggle for our national liberation. The minority alliance of some farmers, merchants and planters in several colonies became the world's first national liberation front.

(They won. Therefore, they were patriots. Had they lost, they would have been traitors. History is written by the winners.)

On a stone near that old bridge in Concord read:

They came 3,000 miles and died,
To keep the past upon its throne;
Unheard, beyond the ocean tide,
Their English mother made her moan."

The nation that cut those words in stone, has compassion in its courage.

I love her for it.

Those first Patriots made my life better, and they gave the world a good example.

No one could grow up in Lexington without celebrating that history. I was grateful. I was pleased. I was proud. Every April 19th I strutted that pride in the Patriot's Day Parades. We had two; one real early like Paul Revere's ride, and a big grand one in the afternoon with stirring speeches afterwards. As a Cub Scout, Boy Scout and band member I was privileged and delighted to participate. Inside me was the satisfaction of knowing that I was, myself, related to Captain Parker, himself. I knew the secure comfort of belonging to a good people in a good land with good roots. Next to Christmas, Patriot's Day was my favorite holiday.

Today it's different. My comfortable satisfaction in the Fifties was shattered by trauma upon trauma in the sixties. The seventies and eighties were not reassuring. Also, today I could not afford an outhouse in Lexington even if there was one. (Some shrines have not been restored.)

Five miles from Concord's famous bridge you can see an exhibit of Vietnam era art (before April 15th). Much of it is the work of the veterens. I must recomend it, but only to tough patriots. It shoves you through the misty myths of history to face it's sharp clear mirror. It has a terrible attraction. I didn't want to look, but I couldn't look away.

With my guts in turmoil and tears in my beard, I heard an old verse in a different way:

They went 12,000 miles and died,
To keep the past upon its throne;

And heard this side of ocean wide,
Their Yankee mother made her moan.

Sargent William Ehrhart said:

"There is an implicit but sacred bargain struck between those who ask others to put their lives at risk and those who actually do the risking. For those who do the risking, it goes like this: I will give you my life to do with what you will so long as your cause is worthy of my sacrifice. I accepted at bargain willingly, proudly, because those who put me at risk assured me and my country that the cause was worthy."

After 13 months in Nam he comments:

"...it became impossible to avoid the conclusion that what I was doing was evil."

A quarter of a century later, that war gives dry heaves to the conscience of my country, even while we finance another war like it - to win a cold war that's already dead.

My joy would be to see
a song bird crown
Old Glory's pole.

My shame is now to see
a fierce eagle glare
around, up there

Parker Cleveland

Arts Lottery Council

The Wendell Arts Lottery Council will be meeting on April 12 to fund $750.00 in grants to individuals and organizations who have proposed events, classes or projects that would bring art, music, dance, and other cultural delights to our community. During this past fall/winter cycle the Arts Council sponsored several people and events including the following:

Marcy Marcello for her wonderful "RAT" cartoon series which have appeared singly in past issues of The Post, and more recently in the informative flyer addressing the issues of how-tos of recycling at our own WRATS Center which each Wendell household received through the mail.

The Swift River School was the site for a captivating performance of Matisse Circus by The Amherst Ballet Company's teen-age dancers. The stage set and ballet was based on the artist Matisse's work with paper cut-outs from his Jazz Series. After enjoying the performance the audience, children and adults, were invited to try their hand at composing their own pictures/collages with cut out colored paper.

A concert given by Sarah Pirtle will be held on April 22 at the Town Hall, providing delightful music and storytelling for young and old on the beauty and celebration of the Earth and all of the life she holds. A great way to observe Earth Day! Mez Davis will also provide a flair with her Larger-than-life puppets which represent the four seasons and a beautiful banner which many Wendell and New Salem children helped with. The banner and puppets were funded by a past Lottery grant, and currently wall the "old Preschool" home.

The Council also granted some funding to the 1794 Meetinghouse of New Salem to help support their efforts in the planned pageant and performance of Stout of Heart. The first performance will be presented on Saturday, April 28.

Another workshop series yet to come in September is a two day African dance class to be given on the Wendell Common for teenagers. The classes will be taught by Elizabeth O'Brien.

As you can see we have funded a diverse number of people and projects, trying to keep the whole community in mind. We had $500.00 extra in our last funding cycle which is why we were able to give money to so many; this cycle we are back to the original $750.00. State budget cuts have forced some creative thinking and planning among many groups and a decision was made to join the Mass Arts Lottery Council and the Mass Arts and Humanities to form The Mass Cultural Council from whom we will be receiving our future monies.

The Arts Council also has monies set aside for a PASS Program which offers all Massachusetts students grades K-12 an opportunity to attend many events in the performing arts. The program provides funds on a reimbursement basis to schools, civic organizations, neighborhood centers, and others. These funds cover student tickets only, and not transportation or chaperone tickets. Boy/Girl Scout troops, school related projects, non profit summer camps are eligible. Maple Valley School has taken advantage of this program as well as Swift River School students. This past cycle provided funds for the first and second grades tickets to the performance of The Velveteen Rabbit at U Mass Performing Arts Center. Individuals as well as organizations may apply Spring or Fall.

Seeing the artists and community benefiting directly through the various projects and events is really what The Wendell Arts Council is all about. By tapping the rich resource we have of talented artists, musicians, dancers, and craftspeople in our town and supporting them in their work, as they share what they do with the community, many lives are touched and hopefully enriched. Inviting artists from outside the community can provide new and inspiring events, also. The Council is always seeking new ideas to fund, new people to apply and additional members. The commitment is small as we only meet four times a year, twice in the spring and fall to review applications and choose which ones to fund. If you are interested call one of the Council members for information. We'd love to have you join us!

Kate Gilday

Origional Full Moon Coffee House Dates

May 5 Lui Collins for Village Co-op

June 9 Sun Dogs DANCE for Wendell Free Library

The old Ellis homestead, Wendell Center on the Common.

Living in Wendell

I love living in Wendell. The unique, diverse human and natural community here satisfies my soul in a way places I've lived before never have. Wendellites come together in times of need (winter car-in-snow adventures, town meeting, metal sorting, home projects needing more than a couple hands) and in times of celebration (Old Home Days, Full Moon Coffeehouses, the Garden Tour). There is a committment to preserving the rural character. Not many places exist where the population is asked for imput on the vision of the town's future. These are just a few of the reasons I'm here, where my desire to live simply and in community with the land and people is fulfilled.

In the 9 months since I moved I've had to look "progress" eye to eye in my own backyard. It is not a question of whether we progress toward the 21st century, rather what type of progression do we choose? (Yes, we do have a choice in the matter) The road I live on is a discontinued town road without telephone or electric poles and wires. Not many cars drive it, even though ten of us live in houses scattered amongst trees, laurel, rocks (and mud!) along the first half mile or so. After that the road gets narrower and passes through state land. The walk into my home is ½ mile under a canopy of mixed hardwoods and deciduous trees and shrubs. It is a unique, serene haven in a country where roadside poles and wires are as common as clouds in the sky. The nature of this road may change in the next few months. Some folks who have been here a number of years desire official telephone and electric service. The state has a lumber sale and cut in progress; the road will be widened deep in the woods to accomodate logging trucks, skidders and whatever else is needed to cart off the cut trees. The adjacent land owner to the piece of Wendell I live on is cutting a large section of birch and hemlock on his land for cordwood. Unfortunately, the section he is cutting is 50 feet from my dining room window. My uneasiness is getting deeper. I hear these projects are inevitable and my heart sinks to my toes. Are there any places to live simply and quietly without having to peer over my shoulder for the next "advancement"?

Not being a landowner give me even less say in matters such as the ones mentioned above. Truth is, I'm not interested in being a land "owner". I can rightly own a piece of land as much as I can lay claim to the air I breathe. Steward is a term I like to use to describe humans in relationship to the land and their communities. Stewardship implies responsibility to the land and to the people affected by decisions made in regards to the land. Imagine that! Decisions would be processing nightmare. They would also represent the ability to respond (response-ability) to the needs of the land and people over generations and generations. I can only vision what life would be like in the above scenario. Today property lines are sacred division and goodness knows I have no say about what you do in your backyard, so I'd better stay in my own. (Oops, I don't have one of my own...)

It is important to say that I'm not advocating a right and a wrong way of going about living life on this pretty blue green planet. That is silliness since everyone has different needs, desires and perspectives. There is truth in saying that things need to change if we humans want future generations to have a comforable place to live. Rather than travel the "here's the right way to live and you are doing it the wrong way" dead end highway how about we begin to take time with whatever decisions we are making to hear the perspectives of those typically left behind in the current fashion of doing things. Everyone on my road knows how I feel about the poles coming in and I pretty much know their perspectives. Not that this hearing of each other is changing the outcome any (I didn't say my ideas were perfect!) yet it is a step in a new direction. No one from the logging company or the state knew how any of the residents felt about the cutting irregardless of whether it progressed or not. Where, in the volumes of laws created to make our lives secure, is there a voice for the land itself? Respect for the integrity of the land and for each other - this is the direction I'm interested in moving. Here in Wendell I sense this beginning to happen.

What if there were areas set aside where people could pursue the art of living simply without having to keep a constant watch for well meaning invasions? There aren't many places left to choose from. It's something I consider each day as I walk down the road inhaling leaked hydraulic fluid from the logging truck carrying 390,000 board feet of Wendell forest off to the mills.

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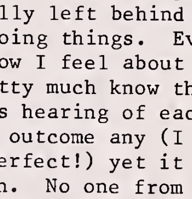
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Edward Judice
544-2739

MANY WINNERS AND MANY THANKS

The Rural Design Grant Committee wants to thank the many people in town who took the time to complete the "Places of the Heart" survey. We also want to thank the following for their generous support. These individuals and organizations donated prizes for the raffle: two cords of firewood from the Wendell Department of Public Works, a turkey from the Diemand Egg Farm, a quart of maple syrup from Peter Diemand, a Diemand Cutter Haircut from Lin Diemand, a collectors sheet of postage stamps from the Wendell Depot Store, two seasons passes from Wendell State Forest/ Massachusetts Division of Forests and Parks, Myron's #1 Yakitori from Myron Becker, a one-year subscription for the Wendell Post, an herb or wild edible course from Kate Gilday, four free passes to the Full Moon Coffeehouse, one dozen hand-made greeting cards from Bertha Diemand Petruski, a copy of A Day at a Time from Margo Culley, a wildlife painting by Bob Ellis from the Bear Mountain Preservation Association and a massage by Susan Dunlany. Thanks again to all the above.

If any of the first sixteen numbers drawn at the Vision Workshop on Saturday, March 24 were unclaimed by Saturday, April 7 then the following numbers are the new winners. Those who have the following raffle numbers should contact Kathleen Ramsay at the Town Hall (544-3395, Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.) to select the remaining prizes. Prizes will be awarded on a first come basis. The winning raffle numbers are: 155, 643, 426, 197, 873, 320, 703, 267, 404 and 143. Congratulations!

Kim Noyes

Future of Town Buildings ... cont.

ballot in May that will give each voter a simple but vocal way to express their preferences.

At the present time, in addition to the Library Trustees, several groups would like to have the use of the former pre-school building. These groups include the Wendell Recreation Committee, a group of Wendell senior citizens, and several town officials who would like office space, as well as the Selectboard for regular town meetings. As the pre-school building is not large enough to accomodate all of these uses, a decision will have to be made as tc the best possible use. A large response from voters on the referendum question will give the selectboard the necessary information to make these decisions.

Wendell Building Facilities Committee

The Gift Shop
DOLLS
TOYS
potpourri
puzzles
HANDMADE CRAFTS
Unique Hand-Painted SILKS
JEWELRY
Balloons
Wed-Fri -- 2-8
Sat -- 10-6
Sun -- 10-4
At Wendell Country Store
Wendell, Mass 01379

The youth of Wendell share their visions at the recent Visions Workshop.

Places of the Heart ... cont.

The Common is the landmark most often used for directions for outsiders. It is the location of nearly all the buildings most memorable to residents. It's the nostalgic symbol of "home" or "roots" to most of us. Many want it to stay the focus of the present, living Town. Loss of its character is of greater concern, according to the survey, than any other aspect of Town except the loss of farms and forests.

Walt Cudnohufsky's review showed Greenfield, Amherst, Northampton and Orange, in that order, are Wendell's primary urban connections for shopping. For work, Wendellites travel first to Amherst, then Greenfield. (Work, the survey showed, is the second most important reason for leaving Wendell.) We seek entertainment fairly equally in Amherst, Greenfield and Northampton. Amherst draws the most students for higher schooling. Since visiting wasn't mentioned by many of the respondents as a reason to leave town, it is deduced most of that happens right in Wendell..

Wendell's greatest resources or opportunities are seen as its people, its state forests, and the natural landscape in general. Threats are seen to come from pollution, residential development and rising taxes. Taxes were mentioned as the second most troubling change, behind population growth.

Mr. Cudnohufsky detected a dilemma in the fact that the survey showed people want to protect the Town's environment and rural character at the same time they are outspoken about defending the rights of citizens. It seems to be up to Wendell citizens to invent a way to keep their independence of bureaucracy while avoiding the kinds of change that might destroy the Town's rural character or degrade its natural healthiness.

Jonathan von Ranson

Eugene Witham, shown here with Johanna, Christine Heard and Amy Daisy, is the most recent Wendell Megabucks winner, along with his brother.

Earth Day ... cont.

Following the concert at 3:30pm there will be a tree planting on the Common for all those who wish to participate, And then a closing circle.

During the afternoon information tables will be set up in the Town Hall - by local groups and individuals who work with local environmental issues and community concerns. If you'd like to contribute information abouta particular issue or local concern, please contact Angel 544-6184.

In case of wet weather come only to the Sarah Pirtle concert at 1:30 in the Town Hall.

For more information contact Carlan 544-8457 or Angel 544-6184

See you There!
Carlan

Small Business Loans

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE TEN TOWN LOAN PROGRAM:

The Franklin County Community Development Corporation announces that low interest loans and technical assistance are still available to small businesses located in CHARLEMONT, HAWLEY, ERVING, WENDELL, WARWICK BERNARDSTON and NORTHFIELD.

The loans can be used for equipment purchases, real estate acquisition, real estate or leasehold improvements, and inventory for value added production. Priority is given to natural resource based businesses and industries, such as wood products and agriculture. The loan should help expand the business and create new jobs.

Over the past two years, more than 20 businesses in the ten participating towns have received vital start-up and growth capital through the program. Loans ranging from $4000 to $40,000, at interest rates between 0% and 4%, were used to purchase equipment, acquire real estate, and rehab/expand farm, commercial, and industrial space.

For businesses in need of technical assistance, the program offers consulting in financial planning marketing, and business planning at no cost.

Funds were provided through a Community Development Block Grant from the Mass. Small Cities Program.

For more information on how to apply, contact Catherine Heyl at the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, 324 Wells Street, Greenfield, (413) 774-7204.

JUDITH A McINTOSH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1782 MAIN STREET
ATHOL MASSACHUSETTS 01331
(617) 249-7986

WENDELL FUTURE

COMMON IS REDRAWN IN VISION WORKSHOP

On the radio recently a Presidential biographer pointed out the lack of opportunity for a U.S. President to daydream, saying aides constantly press him to "Go here," "Hadn't we better get back to the limo, Mr. President?", "They're waiting for you at the hotel, Mr. President". It was this biographer's feeling that the creative, visionary process shrivels without the nourishment of reverie.

So it's nice that Wendell recently devoted a day to (rather purposefully) daydreaming about its future. An all-day vision workshop in late March drew about 40 or 50 residents to Town Hall to sketch and speak their vision for this place as it braces for the onrushing future. Organized by the steering committee that created the "Places of the Heart" survey distributed in early March (subsequently returned by over 200 residents), the get-together was led by Walt Cudnohufsky and his colleagues of Conway Design Associates. Selectboard members Michael Idoine served on the committee with Prudy Smith, Mason Phelps, Daniel Bascigalupo and Kim Noyes.

First those present listened to a briefing about Wendell's remaining developable areas, scattered in parcels of 5 to 100 acres throughout Town and variously affected by thin soils and high water tables or even excessively porous soils. Some are pieces with frontage, some backland (the property on slopes over 25% was eliminated first). The bottom line, according to Molly Babize of Conway Design Associates, is "about 4000 acres are buildable, of which about 3000 acres have road frontage. If you assume 4 acre lots, some which won't perc, you can assume 400-500 new housing units in town". This, she pointed out, is two to three times the present number.

There are only about 200 acres of prime agricultural land in Wendell, she said, and she encouraged strategies to keep it open for growing food.

The participants broke up into sketch groups led by (among others) local artists Bob Ellis, Mary Gilman and Amy Hubert. By chance, the first visions concentrated on the Common. Well, more than chance: the Common was identified convincingly in the survey as Wendell's heart (see accompanying story).

In Prudy Smith's group, east-west traffic on Montague and Morse Village Rds. was cut off and directed around the Common as of old Needed Town Hall parking was provided in place of the old fire station, which was razed. In Karen Idoine's group, healthy trees, unstunted by trimming for utility wires, were shown lining the roadways around the Common. Parking was created by razing both the old fire station and the old highway garage, with a path linking them.

One group graphically "dug up" the roadway before the Town Hall and showed landscaping flowing out from the Common and drawing the hall out of its claustrophobic corner into the Common's airy, green embrace The same vision incorporated the meeting house into the Common by cutting off the roadway there except for a lane for cemetary access.

In another coincidence, two groups simultaneously and independently drew the Jack Ellis house as an arts or community center and the fields for serious food production out of orchards and an oval garden.

The work "cluster" was used often during the day to describe the best relationship of houses and human activity in the healthy rural environment...yet Bill Lafley's group considering where to increase density this way, admitted its members resisted further clustering in their neighborhoods, and could only agree on Wendell Center and the Depot for this kind of growth.

The same group drew a proposal to create wildlife corridors between existing open

Wendellites confer about their dreams for the town at recent Visions Workshop at Town Hall.

spaces by means of land acquisitions and conservation easements. One flowed across the southern part of town to connect the former Wolfe property (now state-owned) with protected lands to the east and west.

Finally, a circle brainstormed about economic visions in a community that doesn't want to ride roughshod over the ties that bind, either here or in faraway places by the long arm of the economy. It came up with small enterprises that are collectively run, based primarily on local resources and markets. As Joann Aalfs pointed out in her summary, this sort of economy isn't called on to support many public services because needs are met in the course of things, educational, governmental...and visa versa. (A little girl collecting berries with her grandfather is providing food, learning about nature and the past, being loved and nurtured, and getting recreation all at once. She feels like a part of things, something not so easily accomplished in institutional centers called schools and day care centers).

Some members of the group noted that each member of such a community experiences "Us" (instead of "Us and Them").

It was a fairly homogeneous group, so the question, raised by one member and not fully resolved, is whether this vision is applicable in some form to ordinary people. Wendell people aren't terribly ordinary, but we do have minimum standards of mobility and material comfort, of which we tend to turn a blind eye to the impacts. Is this vision just a dream, or is it useful to help solve the problems of working parents (sometimes single) and their under-attended latchkey children, isolated older people and tax-stunned homeowners TODAY? The growing pressures from the outside to demand payment for health and happiness? The urge to help children compete in a competitive, specialized world by the energy of well-paid schoolteachers and convenient busses and well-equipped schools?

I was part of this group. I can't speak for the others, but to me in my daydream it seemed like the dilemma is whether to follow the familiar, well worn path toward known danger, or to lead through the thicket and across a teetery log and over the hill to hope.

Jonathan von Ranson

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PROTECTING PUBLIC SHADE TREES AND SCENIC ROADS

During the early 1970;s, the citizens of Wendell voted to designate all town roads "scenic roads" as defined in Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, Section 15-C. This action in conjunction with the State Public Shade Tree Act (G.L. c. 87, sec. 3) protects all trees "within a public way" from being cut down without permission of the town tree warden, planning board, and/or the state Department of Public Works. The Scenic Roads Act also protects stone walls along designated "scenic roads" from damage or removal during the course of roadwork. This effectively curtails widening and/or straightening of roads to within the limits of existing stone wall and tree lines. These laws apply to all Wendell roads and will be enforced. Payments to the town of up to $500.00 per illegally cut down tree, protected under the shade tree act, may be imposed. It is the landowners/developers' responsibility to familiarize themselves with these laws and follow appropriate procedures for tree cutting requests. Requests for consent to cut or remove a tree along a "scenic road" are directed to the Planning Board and for "shade trees: to the Tree Warden.. As all Wendell roads fall under both jurisdictions, the Planning Board and Tree Warden shall hold a consolidated public hearing prior to such cutting or removal. If written objection is made by one or more persons to the Tree Warden or Planning Board at or before the public hearing, a permit to cut or remove SHALL NOT be issued unless approved by the Board of Selectpersons.

Under F.L.c.87 "public shade trees" are defined as "all trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof" (G.L. c.87 sec.1). "Public way" means the entire width of a right of way (used for vehicular traffic) and is not limited to the paved or travelled areas. Roads laid out as "three rod roads," for example, include a 49½ foot right of way (about 25 feet on either side of the road's center line). Where, as is often the case, it is unclear precisely where the right of way boundaries are located, any trees along disputed boundaries must be assumed to fall within the right of way until it is shown otherwise.

Both these acts are designed to protect and enhance the aesthetic value of our town's landscape as viewed from the roadside. The beauty of our roadsides in turn enhance the quality of our rural New England lifestyles and the value of our residential, agricultural, and business properties. Let's keep them that way.

Prudy Smith (Wendell Planning Board)

THANKS! THANKS!

Stop & Shop's "Apples for Students"

Swift River School's Apples for Students Project was very successful. We raised a total of $114,800 worth of Stop & Shop/Bradlees register tapes. That amount enabled the school to order an Imagewriter printer, 2 new disc drives and several outstanding pieces of software.

A BIG special thank you goes to Joyce Flynn who so diligently flattened, highlighted, bundled and tallied all of those many receipts. Her efficient job was greatly appreciated. Thank you Joyce!!

And thank you to all the people who donated their tapes to our school. It was a remarkable effort considering tha fact most Wendell and New Salem redidents don't regularly shop at Stop & Shop. We're very appreciative.

Wendell's Newest Dowser

We all know how important good drinking water is. When building a house, many other concerns come to mind: a dry perk test, a working septic system, and a dry basement.

When dealing with water location, most people consult their local water dowser. Dowsing is the art of locating underground water. No one knows why it works, only that it does. Using any one of various tools, the water diviner walks the land and gets a reaction when passing over the water vein. The master dowser can predict the depth, flow direction, gallons per minute, andchange the course of a stream. Dowsers have been used by the U. S. Government, oil companies, General Electric, and engineers among others. The tomb of King Tut was found by using a dowser.

Here in Wendell we have been blessed to have had Ruppert Goddard as our local water diviner. Now, after locating water in Wendell for 30 years, Mr. Goddard has retired from dowsing and refers clients to his successor, Perry Howarth.

Raised in Wendell, Perry Howarth learned the art from Mr. Goddard several years ago and has continued on his own to locate over a hundred wells, homes, and septic systems. Perry has a keen sense of continuing a tradition that goes back a long way. He remembers, as a child, seeing Mr. Goddard walking the fields with a forked stick, locating people's wells. It is with great pride that he takes the responsibility of being Wendell's newest dowser. Anyone needing help with locating their perk test hole, house site, well or septic system can reach Perry at 413-549-5355 or write:
Perry Howarth
P.O. Box 132
Wendell, Mass. 01379

by Kane Stebbins

And the Beat Goes On

Wendell has always been a creative hot spot, and has been reknowned for an incredible amount of talented musicians hiding out in our woods. This column will hopefully help to "leak out" some of the musical happenings, so we can all be proud of yet another aspect of the town.

Historically Wendell has always been "Reggae Central" (yea, mon!) and the '90s are no different in that respect.

The Equalites are "stormin' de valley in dis hea time." Local members include Dave Boatwright, songwriter, guitar & vocals, and the infamous William Boo Pearson, song writer and percussion giant, Adam Bauer, and David Noonan. The Equalities had several sold out smash Reggae dance parties in March, including a special night with the well-known "Mighty Diamonds" from Jamaica at Pearl Street, and at the Iron Horse with Michael Gregory. In January, the band travelled to Dreamland Recording Studio in Woodstock, N.Y. to work on a recording project with Michael Gregory as their producer. Ten songs were laid down , and then extra tracks were completed at Long View Farm in Brookfield, Mass., and Sound Design in Brattleboro, Vt. The project was then completed in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, with the idea of creating an album in the future with Michael Gregory's continued support on the marketing end. The band's music was enthusiastically received by representatives of Island Records and Taff Gong Music. Look for "The Equalites" to be playing at Pearl Street on April 24th in Northampton(upstairs) with "The Wailers", at Williams College for an outdoor festival on May 20th, and at our own Wendell Town Hall on May 4th.

The Loose Caboose continues to spread the heartbeat Music throughout the land. Local member Jona Dorr has just returned from a tour with the band to the sunny south in Florida. Where they were highly received by all.

Those drumbeats that you hear every summer at the Wendell Common have now sread throughout the Valley. Stone Montgomery, who had taught and founded "The Wendell Dancers & Drummers" has begun a company "The New England African & American Dance & Theater Company". Local Members include Serena Stone, Boo Pearson and Jon Ingress. The group had their smash "Works In Progress" opening show on March16th to a full house at the East Street Studios. Their Second "Works In Progress" is planned for April 22nd at E Street Studios. The show combines the traditional dance and music of Africa and other cultures into an integral theatrical happening.

A group of musical women have also formed a drum & dance group "Imoja", meaning Unity. They have begun performing in the area and spreading the traditional African music and dance spirit further. "Drum Captains" Karen Copeland and Karen Brown of Greenfield have led local woman drummers Claudia Scully, Barbara Liberty, Phyllis Brooks and Dorthy McIver to accompany the Imoja Dancers. Dancer with the African spirit include Patty Waters, JoAnna Totina and Earline Robinson, captain of the dance troupe.

Imoja will be performing at the Valley Women's martial Arts benefit at Nothampton Center for the Arts on April 14th and "Take Back The Night" march in Greenfield on April 26. The drummers as well as Patty Waters & Karen Brownwill be performing at the Wendell Moondala Coffeehouse on April 14th.

On the rock and roll scene, local guitarist Bob Rosser and Doug Huntington have been wailing away with the 'Slippery Moon" band. They will be playing at the Wendell Town Hall May 13th and hope to develop a "cult activity", having every Friday the 13th at the Town Hall.

Karen Copeland

Would You Like to Swing On A Star? ((★))

Would you like to connect with other Wendell residents in an extraordinary ride-sharing venture? The "Wendell Star Route Riders" is an evolving effort by members of our community that hopefully will expand on the neighborly atmosphere that already seems to prevail here in town.

It is also a downhome effort to conserve resources (oil, gas, money) and minimize air pollution and environmental consequences from auto emissions. Even though Americans are driving cleaner, gas efficient cars, more miles and more cars are being driven than ever before. This is Wendell's opportunity to act locally on a global issue

Here's how it will work: Every resident will be receiving a questionaire, and if you are intersted in joining the Star Route Riders, you'll fill out and return the questionaire. You will then receive the first bulletin which will list scheduled commutes as well asride needs. Residents can then make their own connections with other residents and discuss their personal needs such as "no- smokers", seat belts, pick-up, drop off times as well as what form of exchange is appropriate. Members will be able to update the bulletin of their changing schedule and needs by phoning in to Robie Heller who will be updating the bulletin on his computer. The bulletin is designed to link up people for carpooling, errandrunning, night classes and occassional long distance trips.

There has been $500.00 donated to get this venture launched. This money should cover costs for sometime but a small fee will be needed in the future to cover printing and mailing costs. The Star Route Riders may evolve in many possible ways such as rural bus service, computerized networking, a dispatcher service, etc.

Ideas, concerns & suggestions on how to make this service meet the most needs can be added to the questionaire that you will be receiving soon.

Volunteers from each road are needed to help deliver the first questionaire. Call Joyce at 544 8457 if interested.

Joyce Greenberg
Brad Powell

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PLANNING BOARD- GEORGINA KISH ★

The need to plan for the judicious use of the town's resources became glaringly apparent to me several years ago when I first became a member of the Finance Committee. Today, the uncertainty of future state aid to communities coupled with our unwillingness (and inability) to continually increase taxes makes planning even more critical.

We have already made good progress in planning for our community. The adoption last year of comprehensive zoning by-laws laid the groundwork for the next phase: a town Master Plan. The Master Plan will inventory all the town's resources--its environment, economy, housing, recreation, history, education, and community services--and establish guidelines for their future use. I am deeply committed to citizen participation in this design process, and feel fortunate to live in a community which shares this value. The recent "Places of the Heart" survey and the follow-up vision workshop with Conway Design Associates were important beginnings in the planning process. I am also committed to ensuring that any commercial development that does take place in town respects the townspeople's concern for the rural character of the town, the quality of life and the environment.

I have been working with the Planning Board since January gathering data for the Master Plan, and would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve in an official capacity.

Georgina Kish

ROAD COMMISSIONER- HARRY WILLISTON 2 yrs.

No statement available at this time.

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HOURS MON-SAT 7³⁰AM-8PM SUN 9-4PM

TOWN MODERATOR - KATHY BECKER

Serving as Town Moderator continues to be a function that is enjoyable and meaningful to me. I have been in the office since the spring of '84.

My philosophy of Moderating is that every one has the right to be heard before a vote is taken. This means preference is given to first time speakers in the order that their hands are raised. It means I do not favor time limitations on discussion because that would either limit the number of speakers permitted, or it would limit the time a person can have free speech.Many people are nervous about public speaking. Being up against the clock might choke speakers with further anxiety. The Moderator can shorten discussion by keeping people to the subject and by listening to people. People tend to repeat themselves when they are not sure they are being heard or understood. The Moderator can take cues from the whole group about the pace that should be kept, studious or more rapid for familiar well-aired topics.

This year a group of voters did take issue with the Moderator and complained about an unspecified issue of fairness to the Attorney General. This was a correct action for them to take. It is one of the safe-guards for the minority under our system of democracy. The New England Town Meeting is very clever this way, after hundreds of years of human fiddling to make it right. Its main "flaw" in our busy modern society is that voters must show up in force and observe some basic rules.

To know your way around town meeting, check for Town Meeting Time in our public library. This is the manual our meeting uses, written by the Mass. Moderators Association.

I would appreciate your vote, and also your suggestions. If I can be of help, that is part of the job, so speak up. In any event, please participate!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Becker

ROAD COMMISSIONER- RAYMOND AVERY 3yrs

As one of the older citizens of Wendell I can remember the condition of the local roads back in the days when the automobile had almost replaced the horse as the principle means of transportation in Wendell. In the springtime most roads were axle deep in mud to a Model T Ford and almost as bad in sand in the summer. The spring vacation for the local schools was set by the week that the frost came out of the ground as many town roads were closed during the "mud season". No matter how much we find fault we know and appreciate the fact that our highways are much better today than back in those days. Now our task is to continue this progress and in spite of a tighter budget not to slip backwards. It is now quite apparent that we will have to do with less money than in the past and we will have to do more with less, a fact which most of we older folk well appreciate. It can and will be done but will take a great deal of cooperation from everyone.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE- PATTY CLARK 2yrs.

My name is Patty Clark. I have lived in Wendell for 3 years. My home is on Morse Village Road. I am married to Donald Clark. I have 3 elementary school age children, Donald Jr.,age 11, Meghan,age 9, and Stephanie,age 7. I manage PAC Trucking which has been in business for 4 years.

I decided to run for School Committee because as a Parent and a Taxpayer I would like to be assured that our children are receiving a quality education that is affordable to all.

I really feel that our children are the most precious assets because they are our future. If they don't receive an education that is solid, basic, and realistic our future society will not be able to circumvent the problems out Planet Earth will be faced with in the future and we as parents would not have done all we could have to educate and help our children.

The way the economy is right now we really need to have a School Committee to watch over the monies we spend and how they are spent. The monies have to be spent on the Childrens Education and not on things unnecessary to their education.

I would greatly appreciate your support and your vote at the May 7 election.

Patty Clark

SCHOOL COMMITTEE - ANGEL RUSSEK 3yrs.

I moved to Wendell almost a year ago after spending a few years working and traveling as graduate student and staff person with the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute. On that program I learned the importance and value of community and how education is an integral part of community anf the surrounding environment. I currently work for NASEI on a semester basis in addition to teaching and facilitating my own programs in environmental education.

I am running for school committee to be of service to the Wendell community in an area I have experience and expertise in - namely education and to hold out for our schools and children a vision of moving toward the future in a sustainable, humane and relevant way.

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The New Dump In Town

Just down the hill from Joe Diemand's auto salvage yard is a new landfill, the first of its kind in the state, opened January 11, this year. I visited during the last week in March, but I could not walk around the site because of insurance regulations. Dean Bennett, who is running the site for Joe Diemand, tried to answer my questions and explain the operation.

The finished project will be essentially five side by side plastic bags filled with construction and demolition debris, and wrapped in one large plastic bag covering 8 acres. Underneath the entire site is a two foot layer of clay covered with a hypolon liner, the large plastic bag, that is covered with 18 inches of sand with drainage pipes, and another hypolon liner, one of the smaller plastic bags: this hypolon liner is covered with 18 inches of sand with drainage pipes, and then 12 inches of rock. On top of that the demolition debris is piled, covered daily with 6 inches of dirt, and when the cell is filled with 12 inches of dirt. It is capped with a hypolon liner, 18 inches of sand, another hypolon liner and two feet of dirt. (see diagram)

The drainage leads into a 32,000 gallon capacity tank that will be emptied periodically and trucked to an ordinary sewage treatment plant; after 2½ months of operation the tank contains about 3,000 gallons.

Up to 20 trailer loads are allowed a day, but so far the daily high has been 18, and the average 11. After the load is dumped, a bulldozer spreads the pile out and men in hardhats and dustmasks go through it pulling out salvageable material, unpainted wood, #1 steel, shredable steel, cast iron, copper, aluminum, bricks and blocks. Hazzardous material is separated. All the hard hats and office supplies used on the site have been salvaged. What remains to be buried is mainly plaster and lath, sheetrock, painted wood, roofing materials, cardboard and insulation.

Most days a trailer load of shredable steel goes to Kramers and the other materials are available through Joe Diemand. When the wood pile gets large enough it will be shipped to a wood burning electric plant in Maine.

The five cells will cover 8 acres and accept 325,000 yards of debris before the site is closed and covered by the final hypolon layer. The town of Wendell gets $1 per yard, or about $110,000 a year for the three year expected life of the landfill. When the last cell is closed and the site is covered with its final hypolon layer and dirt, Joe Diemand will have an 8 acre EPA approved site for his auto salvage yard. (see diagram)

Joshua Heinemann

Lake Grove Maple Valley Basketball Team

Lake Grove Maple Valley Cougars and their counterparts Lake Grove School Lancers faced each other in friendly rivalry during a game recently held at the Lake Grove School campus in New York. Both teams enjoyed keen competition as the final score, 45 Lancers - 41 Cougars, confirms. This game ended a fun season for both teams.

Promises Kept

Winter cover melt
and run,
tumbling fullness
to the sea-
A resounding song of
Awakening,
from places deep
and silent,
no longer bound;

the white on brown
a memory
as Spring comes round
once more.

She lures us forth
in quick dance steps
alighting
on new greens.

In timeless rebirth
She opens
full,
and in the surging
passions
merging

We are swept
in the Promise
kept

And know to step
more lightly
on our Home...

Kate Gilday

Violet Syrup

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Here's a spring recipe
That's sweet and good for you!

One of spring's first flowers to bloom, the common blue violet (Viola papilionacea) is not only lovely to see and smell, but is a plant rich in vitamins A and C, a delicious addition to spring salads. Both flowers and deep green leaves can be eaten, but not in too great a quantity as they could be slightly laxative for some folks. Feel free to pick as many blossoms as you like; the violet will not be harmed, for these delicate flowers seldom or never produce seed anyway. And the more you pick, the more the plant will give! The plant blossoms again in the fall, small, hidden flowers with no petals and no scent, yet producing an abundance of seed.

The greens can be added to any salad thoughout the growing season, but seem most tender in the early spring. They can also be steamed with other wild or tame greens for 10 - 15 minutes. Try some with nettles, dock, and wild mustard greens ... an excellent source of vitamins and minerals ... a Spring Tonic Supreme! And delicious!

The flowers are the base for a soothing, healing, tasty syrup which can be used for sore throats, and coughs, a teaspoonful at a dose. Or pour a bit on toast or muffins, or perhaps let this violet syrup find its way over some of your favorite ice cream!

Fill any size of glass jar with violet blossoms, cover with boiling water, put a lid on the jar, and let the blossoms infuse for 12 - 24 hours. Strain the blue infusion, discarding the blossoms. (Some prefer to keep the blossoms in the syrup; they enjoy seeing them float around on their waffles or such.) To each cup of the violet extract, add the juice of ½ lemon and 2 cups of sugar (or 1 cup of honey). Bring to a low boil, pour into sterilized jars or bottles, and seal or cap. The extract can also be used as the base for any standard jelly recipe.

There is something delightful about jars of this colorful preserve on the pantry shelf, and the memories of gathering in the first spring morning's enticing us out of doors.

Welcome Spring!

by Kate Gilday

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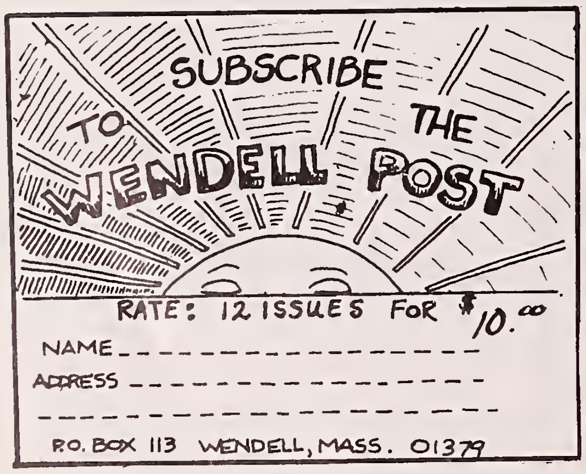

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